

MURPHY ACADEMY

May 30, 2018

Dear Parents and Community Members:

We are pleased to present you with the Annual Education Report (AER) which provides key information on the 2016-17 educational progress for Murphy Academy. The AER addresses the complex reporting information required by federal and state laws. The school's report contains information about student assessment, accountability, and teacher quality. If you have any questions about the AER, please contact Rita Dotstry, the Principal, for assistance.

The AER is available for you to review electronically by visiting the following web site: <https://goo.gl/WgXohD>, or you may review a copy in the main office at your child's school.

For the 2016-17 school year, schools were identified using new definitions and labels as required in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). A Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) school is one that has at least one underperforming student subgroup. An Additional Targeted Support (ATS) school is one that has three or more underperforming student subgroups. A Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) school is one whose performance is in the lowest 5% of all schools in the state. Some schools are not identified with any of these labels. In these cases, no label is given. Our school HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN ONE OF THESE LABELS.

Current Challenges

We started the school year with the challenge of finding Certified Staff for all of our classes. To combat this challenge, we have obtained permits and assigned mentors to our less experienced staff and provided professional development and training to ensure their success. Maintaining consistent positive student attendance in our school has also been a challenge. We have found that unfortunately, parents are not displaying a sense of urgency in getting their child or children to school on time daily. We are working as a school and have created a couple of incentive programs to help parents and students see that student attendance is important for student success. And finally, as the data has shown, most students come to our academy are far behind in achievement and have led to low scores in achievement.

Key Initiatives to Foster Student Achievement

We are currently focusing on the following initiatives to accelerate student achievement:

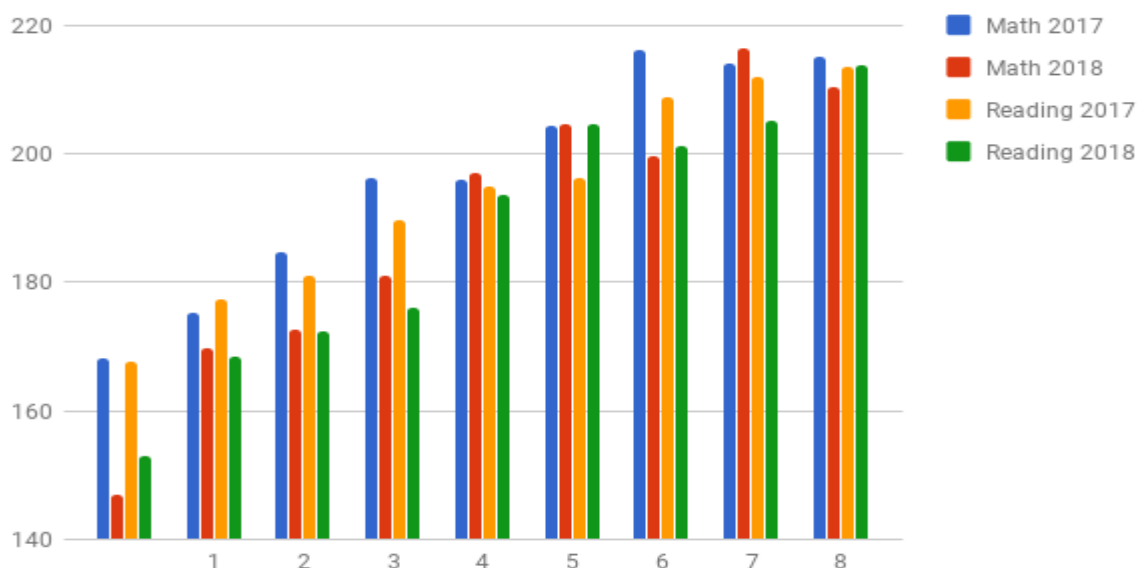
1. Focus on the analysis of all data inclusive of NWEA, MSTEP data, quarterly assessments, exit tickets, student work, writing samples, etc., to guide instruction, planning and re-teaching.
2. Increase student engagement through high quality questioning and check for understanding strategies.

3. Use Interventionist and Classroom Data to support classroom and interventionist instruction. (Interventionist, teachers, coach and principal will work together to determine focus standards.
4. Continue to focus on high achievement and a strong culture of learning in all classrooms. All teachers will implement classroom procedures, routines and transitions effectively.

Our academy is part of the Michigan Educational Choice Center District, we accept students in grades K-8. Michigan Educational Choice Center is a state funded public school academy. Therefore, there is no cost to attend the Academy. The school is open to any child wishing to attend. Students must be age-appropriate for their respective grade, and they must reside in the state of Michigan. By law, Michigan Educational Choice Center cannot restrict enrollment based on selection criteria. Michigan Educational Choice Center can, however, limit the total number of students who may attend the school. If the number of applications exceeds the number of offered seats, a random selection process will determine who attends the school. Our school completed the school improvement plan in 2017. Since then, we have updated our plan and are in the 2nd year of a 3 year plan. Our school improvement teams meet regularly to maintain continuous improvement on our goals: student achievement in the core areas, parent involvement and a positive school climate and culture. Our school uses various core curriculum resources as the means for addressing all students learning needs as well as implementing common core state standards. At any time, our curriculum is available for review. In order to do so, please contact Rita Dotstry, the Principal.

In 2015/2016, we had 40% of our parents attend Parent Teacher Conferences. In 2016/2017, we had 42% attend Parent Teacher Conferences and this year, we have had 65% attend Parent Teacher Conferences. We appreciate the continued support of parents, staff and our community in this effort.

The chart below provides 2 years of NWEA data.



In closing, I would like to point out the data within this report took place when the school was under previous management. Since then, we have seen much growth and expect to continue to see much more. I am so proud of the wonderful work we are doing here at Murphy Academy. I would like to encourage all students and parents to continue to work hard. We expect this to be a rewarding and successful school year and we are excited to continue this school year with you as partners in education. The staff of Stewart Academy along with those of Phalen Leadership Academies are honored to service your sons, daughters and families.

Sincerely,

Rita Dotsey

Principal, Murphy Academy